DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 255 068 FL 014 954

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TITLE Kevghia Cov Niamtxiv Txog Kevkawmntawv = A Parent's Guide to Education. Hmong Edition.
INSTITUTION Nebraska State Dept. of Education, Lincoln. National Origin Project.
PUB DATE Oct 83
NOTE 20p.
PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055) -- Multilingual/Bilingual Materials (171)
LANGUAGE Hmong; English

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Administrative Policy; Asian Americans; Attendance; Board of Education Policy; Discipline Policy; Dress Codes; *Educational Policy; Elementary Secondary Education; *English (Second Language); Equal Education; Extracurricular Activities; Grades (Scholastic); Health; Homework; Hygiene; *Immigrants; Lunch Programs; Migration; Parent Education; *Parent Materials; *Parent School Relationship; Parent Teacher Conferences; Physical Education; Place of Residence; Special Education
IDENTIFIERS *Hmong People

ABSTRACT

A guide for Hmong-speaking parents of elementary and secondary school students in Nebraska provides in Hmong, and then in English, information concerning education in the state. Topics covered include: state policy concerning enrolling children in school, medical requirements for enrollment and attendance, the school curriculum requirements and learning English both in regular English classes and in English as a second language programs, physical education, special education, school requirements for equity and non-discrimination, homework and grades, school clothing and grooming, notes from school, school visits by family members, school lunches, extracurricular activities, absences and illnesses, weather and school closing or early dismissal, disciplinary action, and moving within or outside the school district. (MSE)

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KEVQHIA COV NIAMTXIV
TXOG
KEVKAWMNTAWV

A PARENT'S GUIDE
TO EDUCATION
HMONG EDITION

Tus Sau Thiab Xatawm Yog: Nancy Rowch
Fab Lajkam Txog Cov Neeg Txawv Tebchaws Thiab Siv Ob Yam Lus
Lub Roojncaujlug Saib Kevqhia Ntaubntawv Nyob Nebraska

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National Origin Bilingual Project
Nebraska Department of Education

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October, 1983

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Thiab, uatsaug txog cov phoojywg uas tau pab kevsablaj thiab tawm lus tseemceeb ntau yam.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Spanish — Hector Mota
Vietnamese — Dung Nguyen
Lao — Sonexay Mychackavane
Hmong — Lormong LaoHmong
Cambodian — Vanna Pell

Also, much appreciation is extended to the many friends and colleagues who offered their invaluable suggestions.

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KEVCOJ MENYUAM MUS KAWM NTAWV

(Enrolling Your Child in School)

Ibtug menyuam muaj txoj cai mus kawm ntawv nyob rau cov tsevkawmntawv luam nyobrau ntu 5 xyoos txograu 21 xyoos. Yog kojtus menyuam muaj 5 xyoos rau lub Kaum Hli tim 15 ntawm lub xyoo kawmntawv, ces nws yuav tsum muaj cai mus kawm ntawv. Yogtias twb rhau lub Kaum Hli tim 15 lawm es nws mam muaj 5 xyoos, mas nws yuav tau tos txog lwmlub xyoo tso mam tau mus kawm ntawv. Rawsli txoj kevcai hauv lub Xeev Nebraska, kojtus menyuam yuav tsum mus kawm ntawv ntu 7 xyoo mus txog rau 16 xyoo.

Uantej yuav coj menyuam mus kawm ntawv, koj yuavtsum muaj ntaubntawv qhia tias kojtus menyuam nyob rau ntu 5 xyoos mus rau 21 xyoos. Daimntawv yug losyog daimntawv I-94 siv tau lawm. Koj yuavtsum muaj ntaubntawv qhia tias seb kojtus menyuam puas tau xav tshuaj kabmob licas thiab mas thiaj tau kawm ntawv.

QHOV YUAV TSUM XAV TSHUAJ

(Medical Requirements)

Rawsli Lub Xeev Nebraska txoj kevcai, tagnrho cov menyuam kawmntawv yuav tsum raug xav tshuaj thaiv cov kabmob uas yuav txawm tau rau lawv lub cev ua ntej mus kawmntawv. Uantej hnub tim 15, Kaum-ib Hlis, nej yuav tsum tau muab tej kevxavtshuaj no qhia rau lub tsevkawmntawv tias nej tus menyuam tau mus xav tshuaj lawm, yuav tsum qhia hnub, hli, thiab xyoo xav tshuaj tibsi. Yog nej tsis kam nej cov menyuam xav tshuaj, nej yuav tsum sau ntawv mus qhia lub tsevkawmntawv. Yog lub tsevkawmntawv tsis tau txais nej daimntawv losyog daimqhia txog kevxavtshuaj nyobrau hnub tim 15, lub Kaum-ib Hlis mas, lub tsevkawmntawv yuav tau thov muab nejtus menyuam tawm ntawv kom txog hnubtwg lawv tau txais cov ntaubntawv tso.

Kevcai kawmntawv kuj muaj kom muaj kevkuaj lub cev lub shijhawm tus menyuam mus kawm ntawv, uantej thaum txog qeb xya, thiab rau tagnrho cov menyuam los lwmqhov los. Yog nej tsis pub kuaj nej cov menyuam lub cev, nej yuav tsum sau ntawv rau lub tsevkawmntawv thiab qhia lawv.

KABKE KAWMNTAWV THIAB LUS ASKIV

(School Curriculum and Learning English)

Cov tsevkawmntawv yuav tsum kom menyuam kawm tiav tej yam thiab xeem dhau tso mam pub hla mus lwm hoob losyog pub kawm dhau. Tus qhia losyog tus qhuab xyuas yuav pab nej thiab nej tus menyuam ua daimntawv sijhawm. Feemntau cov tsevkawm yuav tsum kom menyuam kawm Askiv, pheevtawm, lijchoj, zauv, thiab kevkawm sivzog.

Nejtus menyuam muaj ntau yam txauvkho. Tsis yog yuav kawm ua hauv hoob xwb, ib yam lus tshiab kuj raug kawm thiab. Nejtus menyuam kuj yuav tsis kawm tau ceevsai thaum tseem kawm Askiv. Nej yuav tsum noog cov qhia thiab seb tej menyuam kawm tau licas lawm.

Yog nejtus menyuam hais tsis tau lus zoo mus kawm nrog ib hoob hais lus Askiv, lub tsevkawm yuav tsum pab kom nejtus menyuam kawmtau lus Askiv. Qhov no pab tau rawsli qhia ua ob yam lus losyog ua lus yam ob (ESL). Hoob kawm Askiv thiab Kawm Lus Ua Yam Ob tsis zoo ibyam. Nejtus menyuam yuav tsum kawm lus yam ob ntxiv rau nws Hoob Askiv. Nyobhauv hoob Lus Yam Ob, menyuam yuav raug qhia ua hoob, ibleeg, siv lus Askiv. Ibco tsevkawm muaj qhia siv ob yam lus kom tus menyuam totaub zoo.

Yog nej xav noog txog nejtus menyuam txoj kevkawm Lus Yam Ob (ESL), noog tus saib tsevkawm losyog tus qhia; losyog noog Qhov Chaw Pab Ob Yam Lus nyob rau Lub Roojncaujlug Saib Kevqhia Ntaubntawv. Tus foos nabnpawb nyob uantej ntawm phau ntawv no.

KEVKAWM SIVZOG

(Physical Education)

Kevkawm dhia uasi yog ib qho tseemceeb ntawm kevkawmntawv. Feemcoob cov tsevkawmntawv kuj muaj kevqhia txog kevkawm sivzog dhia uasi, rau cov tubntxhais kawm txog thiab kuj muaj mus nrog luag sibxeem kevdhia uasi.

Nyobrau cov tsevkawmntawv qeb xya mus txog rau qeb kaum-ob, cov tub thiab ntxhais lawv nyias muaj nyias kem mus hloov ristsho. Thaum xyaum uasi taslawm cov menyuam kawmntawv yuav tsum yaugcevtibsi.

KEVQHIA RAU COV PUASCEV THIAB TSIS PAUB LUS

(Special Education)

Ibco menyuam mas muaj kevpuas lubcev thiab xav tau kevqhia pab txawv lwm cov. Nws kuj muaj txoj kevcai los tsujyuam kom cov tsevkawmntawv yuav tsum muaj txoj kevqhia pab rau lawv. Yog koj losyog lub tsevkawm xav tias kojtus menyuam muaj puas ibyam, kojtus menyuam yuavtsum raug kuajxyuas seb yog puas licas. Yog kojtus menyuam tsis paub lus zoo, lub tsevkawm yuav tsum nrhiav tus neeg peslus thiab xeem kuaj nws siv nws yam lus eskom kojtus menyuam thiaj paub. Yog koj muaj lus xav noog, thov noog tus tswj lub tsevkawm losyog tus qhiantawv, losyog hu rau Lub Roojncaujlug Saib Kevqhia Ntaubntawv Nyob Nebraska, Fab Lajkam Qhiapab. Tus foos nabnpawb nyob uantej ntawm phauntawv no.

KEVCAI VAJHUAM SIBLUAG NYOBHAUV TSEVKAWMNTAWV

(School Requirements for Equality)

Raws txoj kevcai hauv tebchaws thiab xeev, tagnrho cov tsevkawmntawv yuav tsis muaj cai tsis pub nej kawm nej ua ib yam yog vim nej txoj kev yog:

- txiv neej pojniam
- sibyuav lawm
- kevntseegntuj
- neegdabtsi
- xajneeg
- puascev

Nej lub tsevkawmntawv yuav tsum muaj ibtug neeg saibxyuas kom tsis muaj tej no txawm muaj. Tus neeg no hu ua tus Saibxyuas rawsli Txojcai Nqe Cuaj. Nej noog tau nejtus saib lub tsevkawm losyog tus qhia seb nws yog tus twg.

Nej yuavtsum paub tias muaj kevcai los saibxyuas nejtus menyuam txojcai kawm cov ntaubntawvuas muaj nyob hauv lub tsevkawm yog nws kawm tau. Nws kuj txhaum txoj cai thiab yog cov tubntxhais tsis tau txais kevqhia ibyam. Cov kevcai saibkom nejtus menyuam yuav tsum tau txais kevkawm ntawv ibyam li lwmtus thiab yog muaj. Nws kuj muaj ntau yam thiab nyob hauv txojcai no. Noog thiab ntsib nrog Tus Saibxyuas Txojcai Nqe Cuaj losyog Pojniam Txivneej Tej Kevsibtxig nyobhauv Lub Roojncaujlug Saib Kevkawmntawv hauv Nebraska, yog nej muaj lus xav noog. Tus foos nabnpawb muaj nyob uantej ntawm phau ntawv no.

NTAUBNTAWV COJLOS UA TOM TSEV THIAB COV TIAB

(Homework and Grades)

Cov menyuam loj, covqhia muab ntaubntawv rau ua. Cov ntaubntawv no yuav tsum ua kom tas tom tsev es nqa rov mus rau tus qhia tagkis. Thov nej pab hais kom cov menyuam rau siab ua kom tas cov ntaubntawv no thiab ua kom tau zoo rawsli yuav uatau.

Thov qhia nej cov menyuam tias lawv yuav tsum ua ub ua no hauv tsevkawm, thiab ua tej ntaubntawv kom tag raws sijhawm. Nwskuj tseemceeb kawg tias menyuam yuav tsum qhia tus xibfwb yog tsis totaub qhov nws qhia. Thaum nejtus menyuam kawm Lus Askiv, tus xibfwb yuav xav paub seb nws puas totaub.

Tejzaum, lub tsevkawm yuav noog nej kom tuaj mus rau txoj kevsibntsib ntawm cov niamtxiv thiab xibfwb yuav tham txog nej-tus menyuam cov tiab thiab kevkawmntawv. Yog tsis ua licas, nej thov ibtug phooj ywg losyog ibtug menyuam nrog nej mus es thiaj muaj tus pes lus.

KHAUBNCAWS KAWMNTAWV THIAB KEVTUCEV

(School Clothing and Grooming)

Menyuam kawmntawv yuav tsum hnav zoo du dais mus kawmntawv. Yuav tsum tau hnav cov khaubncaws komrawsli lub caij huabcua.Yog tsis no no thiab nkosnkos, feemcoob ntawm cov tsevkawm qeb qes kuj tso cov menyuam yaus mus uasi nraum zoov thiab. Xyuas tseeb kom nejcov menyuam muaj tsholojsov tiv no, hnab looj tes, thiab kausmom tiv no rau lub caij no. Khauloj kuj zoo rau hnub losnag thiab loste. Xyuas tseeb kom cov tsholoj, khauloj, thiab hnabloojtes muaj nej cov menyuam lub npe.

Ibco tsevkawm kuj muaj kevcai tsis pub menyuam hnav tejyam ris-tsho thiab. Yog nej xav noog thiab paub dabtsi thov noog tus saib lub tsevkawmntawv.

NTAUBNTAWV XA TUAJ PEM TSEVKAWMNTAWV

(Notes From School)

Yog lub tsevkawm xa ntawv rau cov niamtxiv, cov ntawv no tseemceeb kawg nej yuav tsum paub seb lawv hais dabtsi. Tejzaum kuj yog haistxog kev sibntsib losyog qhia tias muaj kevsho tsis mus kawm ntawv tejlub sijhawm. Tehjzaum, nej kuj yuavtsum xee covntawv xa rovqab mus rau lub tsevkawm. Yog cov ntawv tsis muaj nejyam lus nrog thiab tsis totaub, yuav tsum tau thov ibtug phoojywg losyog ibtug menyuam peslus. Hu rau tus qhiantawv losyog tus saib lub tsevkawm yog nej muaj lus xav noog dabtsi.

KEVMUS XYUAS TSEVKAWMNTAWV

(School Visits)

Cov xibfwb qhiantawv xav ntsib nrog cov niamtxiv sawvdaws thiab qhia lawv paub txog kevkawmntawv. Nws thiaj muaj qheb cov tsevkawm rau cov niam thiab txiv mus xyuas cov tsevkawmntawv thiab nrog cov qhiantawv sibtham. Ibco xibfwb qhia ntawv kuj mus nrog cov niam txiv tham tom tsev txog lawv cov menyuam txoj kevkawm thiab.

Nruabhnub cov niam-txiv mus xyuas cov menyuam tej tsevkawm ntawv los tau. Lino nws zoo rau qhov nws qhia tau tias kevkawmntawv zoo licas. Cov musxyuas yuavtsum qhia tus saib lub tsevkawmntawv lub hoobkas tso mam mus ncig xyuas cov hoobkawm.

Feemntau cov tsevkawm kuj muaj koomhaum rau cov qhia thiab cov niamtxiv ib yam li lub Koomhaum Niamtxiv thiab Cov Qhia. Lub ntsiablus yog ua kom cov niamtxiv nrog xyuas tej kevqhiantawv thiab.

KEVNOJ SUS

(School Lunches)

Ntau lub tsevkawmntawv nws muaj ntau yam kevnoj sus. Ibco tsevkawm muaj zaubmov rau cov kawmntawv noj losyog lawv ntim su mus noj pem tsevkawmntawv. Ibco tsevkawm pub menyuam mus nojsus nram tsev. Ibco mas tsis muaj qhov chaw ua movnoj mas menyuam yuavtsum ntim su mus noj pem tsevkawm losyog mus noj nram tsev. Ibco mas tsis pub cov kawmntawv mus tsev li komtxogntua thaum kaw tsevkawm, yog tsis tau txais lus pom zoo pub mus tsev. Lub tsevkawmntawv yuav qhia tau seb noj sus licas es kom nej thiaj yuav paub ua su thiab ntim su rau nej cov menyuam.

Cov niamtxiv tsis muaj nyiaj ntau, cov menyuam yuav tau noj mov dawb losyog them tsawg. Nej noog tus saib lub tsevkawmntawv txog qhov pab no los tau.

KEVUASI HAUV TSEVKAWM

(School Activities)

Feemcoob cov tsevkawm muaj pawg, kevdhia uasi, thiab lwmyam ntau. Tej kevuasi no tsis yog ibyam uas yuav tsum tau ua, tabsis tejzaum nejcov menyuam kuj xav uasi. Ibnrab kevuasi kuj muaj nyobrau lub sijhawm kawmntawv, ibco mas thaum kawm ntawv tas lawm. Ibco kevuasi mas cov menyuam yuav tsum tau muas ris-tsho losyog yam yuav siv. Kev yuav uasi lino mas yuav tsum yog nejtus menyuam txiavtxim siab. Tejkev uasi no kuj ua tau rau cov menyuam kom muaj lub sijhawm txaussiab xav txog ntau yam thiab uakom zoo ntxiv, uas tejzaum kuj tsis muaj kawm tau nyob rau lub sijhawm kawm.

TSIS MUS KAWMNTAWV THIAB MUAJMOB

(Absences and Illnesses)

Yog nej cov menyuam muaj mob losyog yuav tsis mus kawm ntawv, thov hu rau tus saib lub tsevkawm lub hoobka es qhia lawv tias menyuam yuav tsis mus. Nws tseemceeb heev rau lub tsevkawm kom paub seb nejcov menyuam yuav tsis mus kawm ib tog hnub losyog taghnub, losyog yuav mus txog qeeb. Yog nej cov menyuam nyob hauv tsevkawm lawm tabsis nej yuav coj menyuam mus xyuas thajmaum losyog tuskhohniav, thov qhia tus saib tsevkawm lub hoobka paub.

Yog nej cov menyuam muaj mob pem tsevkawmntawv tus nasmaum losyog tus saib lub tsevkawm yuav hu nej thiab xa menyuam los tsev kom nws zoo tso. Thov nej hais rau nejcov menyuam tias lawv yuavtsum tawm lub tsevkawm mus nraum zoov tsis tau yog tsis muaj lus pomzoo ntawm tus saib tsevkawm lub hoobka losyog tus nasmaum, lub sijhawm tseem kawmntawv.

Nws tseemceeb kawg uas lub tsevkawm yuav tsum paub nejqhov chaw-nyob thiab foos nabnpawb es thiaj paub hu lub sijhawm muaj kamceev licas.

HUABCUA

(Weather)

Tejzaum yog muaj huabcua phem cov tsevkawm kuj yuav raug kaw es tso cov menyuam los tsev ntxov. Visthajnyuj thiab tisvis kuj yuav tshaj tawm thaum twg lub tsevkawm raug kaw yogvim huabcua phem. Thov nej mloog visthajnyuj thiab tisvis, losyog noog ibtug phoojywg Asmeslivkas pab qhia nej seb tsevkawm puas kaw los tsis kaw.

YOG TSIS UA RAWS TXOJ KEVCAI KAWMNTAWV

(Disciplinary Action)

Lub tsevkawm muaj kevcai qhuab txog cov kawm txoj kevkawm ntawv. Cov kevcai no muaj muab rau cov kawmntawv uantej losyog lub sijhawm lawv mus nkag kawmntawv.

Yog lawv tsis ua raws txoj kevcai, lawv yuav tsum raug txim kom raws li txoj cai. Yog tsis txhaum loj cov qhia ntawv thiab tus saib lub tsev kawm kuj yuav qhia nws ib zaug ntxiv uantej. Tabsi, yog tximloj mas menyuam yuav raug rho tawn tsis pub kawm ntawv. Tabsis txawm yog menyuam raug rho tawm los, nej kuj muaj ibyam cai pab thiab. Yog nej xav paub txog nej txojcai, thov noog lub tsevkawmntawv.

KEVTSIV

(Moving)

Yog nej tsiv thaum tseem kawmntawv, nej yuavtsum qhia lub tsevkawmntawv paub txog nej lub chaw nyob tshiab. Yog nej tsiv nyob rau tiblub nroog tabsis nejtus menyuam nyob rau iblub cheebtsam tsevkawmntawv uas muaj ntau lub tsevkawmntawv qeb me qeb siab, nejtus menyuam kuj yuav raug hloov tsevkawm es kom menyuam thiaj tau mus kawm lub tsevkawm ze nej tsev.

Yog nej tsiv mus lwm lub nroog losyog lwmlub xeem, yuav tsum qhia lub tsevkawm txog nej qhov chaw nyob tshiab sai raws li sai tau. Lawv thiaj yuav xa tau nej tus menyuam tej ntaubntawv kevkawmntawv es kom lub tsevkawmntawv tshiab thiaj paub tias nws kuj tau kawmntawv lawm thiab.

ENROLLING YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL

A child has the right and the opportunity to attend public school between the ages of 5 and 21. If your child is 5 years old by October 15 of the school year, then he or she may enroll in school. If your child is 5 years old after October 15, then he or she must wait until the next year to enroll. Your child *must* attend school between the ages of 7 and 16, according to state law.

In order to enroll your child in school, you must show verification that your child is between the ages of 5 and 21. This could be done with a birth certificate or I-94 form. You must also show that he or she has had a medical examination and has been immunized against certain diseases.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

According to Nebraska law, all students must be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and polio before attending school. Prior to November 15, you must show evidence to the school that your child has received these shots by providing the dates (month and year) that the immunizations were received. If you do not wish your child to be immunized, you must write a letter to the school to let them know. If the school does not have your letter or the verification of immunization by November 15, the school may ask your child to leave school until the proper papers are received.

School law also requires a physical examination at the time your child enrolls in school, again prior to the seventh grade, and for all transfer students. If you do not want your child to have a physical examination, write a letter to the school and tell them.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND LEARNING ENGLISH

Schools require students to complete certain coursework with passing grades before being promoted to the next grade or before graduating. The teacher or school counselor will help you and your child plan an appropriate schedule. Most schools require students to study English, science, social studies, mathematics and physical education.

Your child has many adjustments to make. Not only does he or she need to learn the classwork, a new language is also being learned at the same time. Your child may not progress as rapidly in his or her studies while learning English. It is important to stay in contact with the teachers so you will know how your child is doing in class.

If your child does not speak English well enough to participate in an English-speaking classroom, the school must help your child learn English. This can be done through instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL) or bilingual education.

The regular English class and ESL are not the same. Your child will need to study ESL in addition to the regular English class. In ESL, a student is usually taught in a classroom or individual setting and instruction is usually in English. Some schools have bilingual instruction where the student is taught in both English and the native language.

If you have questions about your child learning English as a second language, ask the principal or teacher; or contact the Bilingual Project at the Nebraska Department of Education. The address and phone number of the Bilingual Project are listed in the front of this book.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sports and physical activity are an important part of school. Most schools also have physical education classes, where students learn about and participate in sports and other activities.

In junior and senior high school, boys and girls have different rooms where they change into clothes that are appropriate for sports. Students are also required to shower at the end of the class.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Some students may have a physical or a mental handicap and may have special educational needs. There are many laws and regulations which schools must follow in providing for special education. If you or the school believes your child has a mental handicap, your child must be tested to determine what the handicap is. If your child does not speak English well, the school will provide an interpreter and test him or her in the native language so your child will understand the test. If you have any questions about the special educational needs of your child, ask the principal or the teacher, or call the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Education Section. The telephone number and address of the Special Education Section are listed in the front of this book.

SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS FOR EQUALITY

Under state and federal laws, all public schools must not discriminate against anyone because of their:

- sex
- marital or parental status
- religion
- race
- national origin
- handicap

Your school must have a person who is in charge of making sure that there is no discrimination. This person is usually called the Title IX Coordinator or Affirmative Action Officer. Ask your principal or

teacher who this person is.

It is important for you to know that there are laws that protect your child's right to take any class offered in school as long as he or she can meet necessary educational levels. It is also against the law to treat boys and girls differently in the classroom. Laws guarantee your child's right to be treated equally in all activities and services that the school provides. There are other requirements of these laws. Contact your Title IX Coordinator or the Sex Equity Project at the Nebraska Department of Education if you have questions about equity requirements. The telephone number and address of the Sex Equity Project are listed at the front of this book.

HOMEWORK AND GRADES

For older children, many teachers assign homework. These assignments are expected to be done at home and returned to the teacher the next day. Encourage your child to complete the homework and do the best job he or she can.

At different times throughout the school year, students receive a report card which they will bring home for you to see. Many schools require a parent to sign the report card and have the student return it to school. Generally, grades are based on classwork, homework, class participation and tests.

Tell your child that it is important to participate in classroom activities, and complete assignments on time. It is very important that your child tell the teacher if he or she does not understand what the teacher is saying. As your child is learning English, the teacher will need to know if your child understands.

Sometimes, the school will ask you to come to a parent-teacher meeting to discuss your child's grades and educational progress. If you feel more comfortable, ask a friend or one of your children to go with you as a translator.

SCHOOL CLOTHING AND GROOMING

Students should be neat and clean for school. It is important to dress appropriately for the weather. Unless the weather is extremely cold or wet, most elementary schools let the children go outside to play. Be sure your child has a warm coat, gloves and a hat during cold weather. Boots are also good for rainy or snowy days. Be sure that coats, boots and gloves are marked with your child's name.

Some schools have rules about the types of clothes that students will not be permitted to wear. If you have any questions, ask the principal or teacher.

NOTES FROM SCHOOL

If the school sends notes or letters to the parents, it is very important that you know what they say. Sometimes it may be about a meeting or to notify you that there is a holiday so the students do not go to school for a period of time. Other times, the letters need to be signed by a parent and returned to the school. If the notes are not bilingual and you do not understand them, be sure to have a friend or a child translate them. Call the teacher or principal if you have any questions.

SCHOOL VISITS

Teachers like to meet with parents and let them know what is going on in the classroom. It is customary for schools to have an "open house" where parents have a chance to visit the school and talk to the teacher. Many teachers visit the parents in their homes to talk about the students' education.

Parents are also invited to visit the school and the child's classroom during the day. It is helpful to see what is going on in the school. Visitors should go to the principal's office before going to the classroom so they know you are in the building.

Most schools also have an organization for parents and teachers such as PTA (Parent-Teacher Association). The purpose of these organizations is to get the parents involved with the school and its activities.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Schools serve lunch for students in a variety of ways. Some schools make lunch for the students to eat in the cafeteria and they can either eat the school lunch or bring their own lunch. Some schools also allow students to go home for lunch. Other schools do not have a cafeteria so the students must bring their own lunch or go home. Some schools do not allow students to leave until the end of the school day unless they have permission. The school can tell you how lunch is served so you can make appropriate plans for your child.

Students of low income families may be eligible for free lunch or for lunch at a reduced cost. Ask the principal for more information about this assistance.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Most schools have clubs, sports and other activities. These activities are not required by the school, but your child may be interested in participating. Some of these activities take place during school hours, while others are after school hours. Some school activities may require students to purchase uniforms or equipment. Whether or not your child wishes to participate in such

activities is a matter of personal preference. These activities offer students the opportunity to explore interests and develop talents which may not be offered in the regular school curriculum.

ABSENCES AND ILLNESSES

If your child is ill or must be absent from school, call the principal's office and tell them that your child will not be there. It is important for the school to know if your child will be absent all or part of the day, or if he or she will be late. If your child is at school and you must take him or her to a doctor or dentist appointment, please let the principal's office know.

If your child becomes ill at the school the nurse or principal will probably call you and send the student home until he or she gets well again. Please tell your child that he or she may not leave the school building during the school day without permission from the principal or school nurse.

It is important for the school to know the address and telephone number where you can be reached during the day in case of emergency and you must be notified.

WEATHER

Sometimes it is necessary to dismiss school early or cancel all classes due to bad weather. The radio or the television station will make an announcement when school is closed because of the weather. Listen to the radio or television, or ask an English speaking friend to let you know if school is cancelled.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The school establishes rules and standards concerning student conduct. These rules shall be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of the school year or at the time the student is enrolled.

If a student does not obey the rules of the school, then he or she may be disciplined. If the student's misbehavior is not serious, the teacher or principal may choose to talk to him or her. However, if the student's action is severe, he or she may be expelled or suspended from school. Please keep in mind that if your child is suspended or expelled, that you have certain legal rights. If you have any questions about these rights, contact your school.

MOVING

If you move during the school year, you need to let the school know your new address. If you move within the same city and your child is in a school district that has more than one elementary or secondary school your child may have to change schools so he or

she can attend a school that is closer to your home.

If you move to another city or state, notify the school of your new address as soon as you know it. They can send your child's school records to the new school so the teachers will know what your child has been studying.